

A preliminary account of the lance flies (Diptera: Lonchaeidae) of continental France, with the description of a new species

[Eine vorläufige Übersicht der Lanzenfliegen (Diptera: Lonchaeidae) des kontinentalen Frankreichs, mit der Beschreibung einer neuen Art]

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Abstract

An annotated checklist is provided for the lance flies, Lonchaeidae, of continental France based on historical museum specimens and published records as well as on recently collected material. A new species, *Lonchaea bispicata* MACGOWAN & WITHERS spec. nov., is described and 17 species are recorded for the first time from France. The French fauna is now considered to comprise 52 species in 7 genera.

Key words

Lonchaeidae, Palaearctic Region, Europe, France, new species, new records, checklist

Zusammenfassung

Eine kommentierte Checkliste der Lanzenfliegen (Lonchaeidae) im kontinentalen Frankreich wird vorgelegt. Die Zusammenstellung basiert auf historischem Museumsmaterial, früher publizierten Nachweisen sowie in jüngerer Zeit gesammelten Exemplaren. Eine neue Art, *Lonchaea bispicata* MACGOWAN & WITHERS spec. nov., wird beschrieben und 17 Arten werden erstmalig für Frankreich nachgewiesen. Die französische Fauna umfasst nun 52 Arten in 7 Gattungen.

Stichwörter

Lonchaeidae, paläarktische Region, Europa, Frankreich, neue Art, neue Nachweise, Checkliste

Introduction

Lonchaeidae is a relatively small family of acalypterate flies with just over 500 species in 8 genera worldwide and some 100 species in 7 genera known from Europe. The first attempt to list and provide a key to the Lonchaeidae of France was by SÉGUY (1934) who listed 28 species. Understandably the taxonomy of the family has evolved since that time and viewed from a modern perspective his list includes several synonymised species names and misidentifications. He lists two species which have not been found during recent sampling, *Lamprolonchaea smaragdi* (WALKER, 1849) as *Lonchaea aurea* (MACQUART, 1851) and *Silba adipata* McALPINE, 1956 as *Lonchaea aristella* BECKER, 1903. In addition KOVALEV & MORGE (1984) list one species, *Dasiops calvus* MORGE, 1959, as occurring in France, which we are unable to confirm. All of these species are likely to occur in France and accordingly have been included in the present checklist.

The recent publication of the Royal Entomological Society Handbook to Lonchaeidae (MACGOWAN & ROTHERAY 2008) has enabled the determination of members of this somewhat neglected acalypterate family with much greater precision and confidence than previously. The senior author's collection, amassed over 20 years in France, was completely re-assessed using this work, and specimens apparently not represented within it were sent to the second author for evaluation, enabling a relatively complete coverage of those species so far encountered.

Modern recording of the French Diptera fauna has been bedevilled by the absence of specialists in many groups; many historical records for the country, especially for unpopular families, must be treated with extreme caution, and there is still no checklist for France. The senior author is attempting to remedy this